

We urgently need to protect and strengthen, not weaken and destroy, the norms that force us to come together and cooperate.

But we don't need to be naive. We don't need to believe that that means we would always sing "Kumbaya." We obviously don't in this body, but that doesn't mean we are free to be naive in the other direction as well.

For every step we take that further divides, further infuriates, and further inflames half the country, it makes it far likelier that we will set a fire that we cannot put out.

The American Founders understood the problem that we are facing. They were not naive about how politics worked and what it took, what kind of labor and sweat and relational hand-wringing and bread-breaking it takes to be able to work together amicably. They were working from a personal experience of repression, tyranny, and violence. And so they set out some basic principles of federalism, localism, and consensus building, of supporting majorities but without sacrificing minorities. And so they established a framework in which these principles could be balanced in a way that is responsive to changing conditions and needs.

The Founders' concerns are still our concerns, but guess what. They built the Senate for this exact moment. We are constantly tussling over how to make sure that every voice is heard and every person has a place. We live in a divided time. We live in a divided nation. But they lived in a divided time and in a divided nation, and so they created the Senate to be a place that could deescalate red-hot anger, to take a deep breath rather than just assuming that a runaway majority of 50 percent plus 1 should advance whatever it wanted.

Friends, colleagues, you know after the summer of 2013, the dominoes were worse than you had expected, and many of you—I don't know if it is most, but many of you have talked about how much you regret the summer of 2013 decision. This decision is 100 times larger.

Friends, please consider whether or not it is prudent to set the Senate on fire. It is the only deliberative structure we have in our government, and at a time when institutions are being consumed, let us not consume another.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of Shalanda Young's nomination to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Ms. Young is a proven leader, a dedicated public servant with the experience and the expertise needed to tackle the challenges facing OMB and our Nation.

Not only does Ms. Young bring a deep knowledge of the budget process and government operations, but she has a long track record of working successfully across the aisle.

During her 14 years as a senior staff member on the House Appropriations Committee, she worked tirelessly to find a bipartisan path forward on many critical issues.

She played a key role in ending past government shutdowns and in negotiating last year's bipartisan coronavirus relief legislation.

Since President Biden announced Ms. Young's nomination, Members and staff, both Democrats and Republicans, have enthusiastically praised her ability to work with both sides and get results for the American people. This is exactly the type of leadership OMB needs to successfully steer the country through the current public health and economic crisis.

The passage of the American Rescue Plan earlier this week was a historic achievement. But much of the work to fully implement this landmark bill still lies ahead, from getting money into the pockets of workers and families to ensuring schools open swiftly and safely and making meaningful investments in small businesses and local governments.

I have no doubt Ms. Young is prepared to take on the challenging work of ensuring relief is delivered swiftly and effectively and that families, businesses, and communities across our country have the support they need to fully recover from this pandemic.

I know that in order to move past this current crisis, we must work together. We all want to end the pandemic and reinvigorate our economy, but there are intense disagreements over how we achieve those shared goals.

Ms. Young has demonstrated the ability to work hard, to find common ground during times of crisis and in the face of a deeply divided political climate, experience that makes her uniquely qualified to serve at OMB at this very moment.

Having spent most of her career working in Congress, Ms. Young will also bring a profound respect for the role of the legislative branch. She understands the importance of Congress's oversight role and has firmly pledged to work with Congress in a cooperative and a transparent manner.

Ms. Young also fully understands that laws enacted by Congress are the law of the land, and they remain the law of the land regardless of her own personal views.

You know, I know that some of my Republican colleagues have expressed concerns about Ms. Young's personal views. However, I hope they recognize that she has repeatedly committed to following the laws put forth by Congress, including laws that she may personally disagree with.

There is no doubt that Ms. Young is exceptionally qualified for this role. OMB urgently needs qualified, Senate-confirmed leaders, not only to address the current public health and economic crisis but also to strengthen Federal cybersecurity, review regulations, and modernize the Federal workforce.

In short, OMB works to ensure that every part of government is working effectively for the American people. Her budget expertise, extensive record of bipartisan engagement, and deep-rooted understanding and respect for Congress are exactly what is needed to meet the challenges that we face now and the challenges that lie ahead.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the confirmation of Shalanda Young as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 32, Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Jon Tester, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Jon Ossoff, Joe Manchin III, Thomas R. Carper, Debbie Stabenow, Martin Heinrich, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Jeanne Shaheen, Mark R. Warner, Kyrsten Sinema.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 128 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Baldwin	Hassan	Padilla
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Shelby
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Cassidy	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Lujan	Sullivan
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Cramer	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	

NAYS—38

Barrasso	Crapo	Hawley
Blackburn	Cruz	Inhofe
Boozman	Daines	Johnson
Braun	Ernst	Lankford
Capito	Fischer	Lee
Cornyn	Grassley	Lummis
Cotton	Hagerty	Marshall

McConnell	Rounds	Tillis
Moran	Rubio	Toomey
Paul	Sasse	Tuberville
Portman	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Risch	Scott (SC)	Young
Romney	Thune	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak for not more than 5 minutes regarding Shalanda Young.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to be here on the Senate floor to offer my strong support for Shalanda Young to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as I have spoken about her earlier before the committee.

She has worked on the House Appropriations Committee for nearly 14 years. She has been the House Appropriations staff director since 2017.

It is from my position on the Appropriations Committee that I got to know her very well. I can tell you, without any reservation, there is no one better suited for this position. Her deep understanding of, really, the often arcane Federal budget process, her years of experience on the Appropriations Committee, her tenacity, and her dedication to public service will serve the Agency and the American people.

I think after we had the last close-down of the government—I believe the longest in history—we ended up, finally, with four of us meeting for several weeks in my office here in the Capitol. When we forged the agreement to reopen, Senator SHELBY and myself, Congresswomen Lowey and GRANGER from the House—we were chair and vice chair of our respective committees—but, most importantly, Shalanda Young was there for the House, as was Chuck Kieffer, and she had an opportunity to work for the Senate. Her knowledge of the intricacies of that and her ability to help us reach agreement were absolutely essential.

Ms. Young began her career in public service in 2001 at the National Institutes of Health. She first came to work on Capitol Hill as a detailee for the House Appropriations Committee in 2005. She came back as a professional staff member in 2007. She worked her way up in the committee over the years. She helped develop a budget for and conducted oversight of key Agencies. That has given her a critical insight into the operation of some of our Nation's most important Agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the General Services Administration. She even served as a staff director for the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, which covers the budget for Congress.

Ms. Young became staff director of the House Appropriations Committee

in 2017, coincidentally the same year I became vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee. But she has helped the House navigate some of the most difficult issues before the Chamber. As I said, she was a critical player in helping to end the longest Federal shutdown in history in 2019, and she was instrumental in crafting 2020 bipartisan COVID relief bills.

She has a reputation as a tough but fair negotiator. That is high praise on Capitol Hill because she gets it from both Republicans and Democrats. I can attest to the truth of these statements. I have seen these skills firsthand.

I have already said that the Office of Management and Budget is one of the most powerful government Agencies that most Americans have never heard of. That is true. It wields incredible influence on not just the Federal budget but over policies that affect people's lives.

We need people like Shalanda Young to help steer the Agency in these important decisions. That is why I voted yes on the recent motion, and that is why I want to see her in that position as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, during committee review of Ms. Young's nomination to be the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, important questions were raised about whether she would uphold and enforce the restrictions of the Hyde amendment if confirmed. I found her initial response to a question put to her on the subject troubling as it suggested she may seek to use her position to undermine Hyde. However, after speaking with Ms. Young and pressing her on the issue, I am satisfied that she will follow the law as written by Congress without regard to her own personal views. She has assured me that she has no intention to revise rules or regulations concerning Hyde and understands it is not her place to change law. I therefore have decided to vote in favor of her nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of confirming Shalanda

Young as the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The OMB urgently needs Senate-confirmed leaders, and Ms. Young is exceptionally qualified for this role. Her budget experience and extensive record of bipartisan results are what the OMB needs to guide our Nation through the current pandemic and through the current economic crisis.

During her 14 years as a senior staff member for the House Appropriations Committee, Ms. Young developed a deep understanding of the budget process and government operations, and she has been instrumental in negotiating bipartisan agreements on many critical issues.

She is a proven leader who is ready to get to work at the OMB, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON YOUNG NOMINATION

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

All postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Young nomination?

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Grassley	Ossoff
Bennet	Hassan	Padilla
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Hoeven	Sanders
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	Kelly	Shaheen
Carper	Kennedy	Shelby
Casey	King	Sinema
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Hawley	Rounds
Blackburn	Inhofe	Rubio
Boozman	Johnson	Sasse
Braun	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Capito	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Tuberville
Daines	Paul	Wicker
Ernst	Portman	Young
Fischer	Risch	
Hagerty	Romney	

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.